

BHDDH Bulletin

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DIRECTOR

OCTOBER, 2012
ISSUE 6

Advocates in Action 2012 Beach Bash was a Big Success!

Over 140 people attended Advocates in Action's 10th Annual Beach Bash on Thursday, July 26 at Easton's Beach in Newport. Everyone enjoyed good food, dancing, and free carousel rides. Attendees were reminded that the organization's annual conference will be held on Thursday, October 25 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. This year's theme is "Self-Advocacy: That's What It's All About."

"We were so happy to be able to have the Bash again this year," said Sarah Lamirande, President of Advocates in Action. "I want to personally thank BHDDH for their support. The Bash was a lot of fun, and a great chance for people to get together out in the community with others. We couldn't have done it without the support of BHDDH. Together, we're making a difference!"



A First-of-its Kind Conference Focusing on Youth Drug Trends in Rhode Island

Mark your calendar for the RI Student Assistance Service conference "Staying Ahead of Youth Drug Trend: Educate. Act. Prevent." on October 22. This full-day conference featuring local and national speakers will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., with registration at 7:30 a.m. Registration is \$35 and includes breakfast and lunch.

Throughout the last 25 years, Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS) has educated more than 700,000 youth and teens on the dangers of drugs and alcohol and worked to prevent substance abuse among this group. In honor of their 25th anniversary, RISAS has joined with Honorary Chair U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, to host a first-of-its-kind conference to educate frontline professionals about the changing trends in youth drug use among this group and empower them to take action.

The conference is built around the belief that through Education and Action, we Prevent. RISAS knows those who work with youth need the most up-to-date information on the influx of new products to help provide a good quality of life and strong educational experience for our younger generations.

Mayor Scott Avedisian will join Senator Whitehouse to open the conference and former Senator Tom Coderre will share his personal story during the breakfast. Director Craig Stenning will address attendees at the luncheon and introduce the keynote speaker Sue Thau, a public policy consultant representing Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). The conference will also feature a host of workshops ranging from "Legal Possession: The Impacts of Marijuana Policies" to "Prescription Drug Misuse: Recognition and Prevention." Please find a description of the workshops and speaking program at risas.org.

Interested participants may register by visiting www.risas.org. Payment is required at the time of registration (via mail for checks) as with limited capacity, workshops will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis to paid registrants. You may also email conference@risas.org with any questions. The registration deadline is October 15.

New Mental Health Courtroom Opens at BHDDH

The opening of the Mental Health Courtroom at BHDDH's Adolph Meyer Building, on Howard Avenue in Cranston, took place on Wednesday, September 19. The courtroom, which originally was located in the basement of the building, re-opened on the fourth floor. The ceremony was conducted in memory of Joyce Ioanes, who passed away in February of 2007. She was a tireless advocate for the rights of the mentally ill for over 30 years.



Guest speakers included Governor Lincoln Chafee and district court Chief Judge Jeanne LaFazia. Jane Morgan, Associate Director at the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), presented the first annual Joyce Ioanes Advocacy Award to Joyce's partner, Deb Ruggiero, a businesswoman, broadcaster and State representative for District 74, Jamestown/Middletown. In future years, BHDDH will present the annual award to individuals who most embody the passion, dedication, leadership and spirit with which Joyce Ioanes advocated for individuals diagnosed with mental illness or substance abuse. These people will meet specific criteria, including making efforts to reduce the stigma surrounding behavioral health and promoting recovery.

Over 6,000 People Attend 10th Annual Rhode Island Rally4Recovery

Many Smaller Rhode Island Rallies Were Held Throughout September to Celebrate National Recovery Month



The Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition and the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) co-hosted the 10th Annual Rhode Island Rally4Recovery on Saturday, September 15 at the Roger Williams National Memorial in Providence. The Rhode Island Rally is the State's signature event marking National Recovery Month each year. Governor Lincoln Chafee, Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, other State and local officials and individuals in recovery were among guest speakers at the event. "Holding this event is a way for us to provide people in recovery with the opportunity to share their stories," says Director Stenning, emcee for the Rally. "It is important for all Rhode Islanders to know that people with addiction and mental health issues as well as people with developmental disabilities don't have to be limited by them. Many have gone on to live meaningful and rewarding lives."

The annual Rally4Recovery kick-off event was held on Friday, August 31 at the Department of Corrections' (DOC's) Bernadette Women's Minimum Security Facility. It was the largest kick-off event in the history of Rhode Island rallies. This year's recovery quilt was made primarily by women behind the walls. Other DOC rallies were held in men's minimum, men's medium and women's medium security facilities. Director Stenning spoke at all of the rallies. "We are pleased to, once again, have the opportunity to partner with the RIDOC for these motivational rallies" said Director Stenning. "Our work in this area has received national attention."



The first annual Aquidneck Island Rally4Recovery took place on Friday, September 28 at Newport Hospital. Speakers at the Rally included Gus Cordeiro, CEO, Newport Hospital; Newport Mayor Harry Winthrop, RI Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed, Director Stenning, Jim Gillen and William K. Miller, a person in long-term recovery (20 years), who is from Newport. "There was a lot of excitement around the first annual Recovery Rally here in Newport" said Jon Brett, PHD, Clinical Psychologist, Director of the Partial Hospitalization Program at Newport Hospital. "Aquidneck Island has a strong and well-connected recovery community, and it's a great opportunity to join in the activities with the rest of the State during National Recovery Month."

New York Documentary Filmmaker Shared Her Story of Institutionalization at Age 17

Emmy-nominated Director and Producer, Lucy Winer, was committed to the female violent ward of the Kings Park State Hospital in New York at the age of 17. Determined to face her past, she made a documentary about the now-abandoned institution, and travels the country showing her film and speaking at hospitals, universities, mental health associations and many other organizations.



On Tuesday, September 25, Ms. Winer showed her most recent film: "Kings Park: Stories from an American Mental Institution", and spoke to an audience that included mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities providers, mental health court judges, advocates for the homeless and employees of community hospital psychiatric units. The event took place at the Cranston High School West Auditorium and was hosted by the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals in conjunction with the RI Council of Community Mental Health Organizations, the Community Provider Network of RI and NAMI Rhode Island. "It is important, for those of us who serve these populations, to be reminded of what the institutionalization of individuals with mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities meant in

the past and the continuing issues that such individuals face in our communities," said Director Stenning. Prior to her presentation, Lucy visited several of the closed institutions in Rhode Island with Director Stenning. To view the movie trailer, go to: <http://kingsparkmovie.com/>.

A note of congratulations and thanks...

Congratulations to Elizabeth Earls, who was recently appointed Assistant Director of Rehabilitative Services at the RI Department of Corrections. For over two decades, Earls has served as President and CEO of The Rhode Island Council of Community Mental Health Organizations. We, at BHDDH, thank her for her service and wish her well in her new position.

Please submit any items that may be of interest to our readers by e-mail or fax to Deb Varga: dvarga@bhddh.ri.gov; fax: 401-462-3204.



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